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Press Release

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USU MEDICAL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL ANTIETAM ROAD MARCH

BETHESDA, Md. - The Uniformed Services University's annual Antietam Road March is scheduled to be held May 3 on the Antietam Battlefield in Sharpsburg, Md.

Every year, approximately 165 first-year USU medical students participate in the six-mile trek complete with full camouflage dress, helmets, and rucksacks (backpacks). Faculty and staff of the university, almost all in period costume, will lecture on the battle that claimed more than 23,000 men killed, wounded, and missing in one single day.

Students will also learn about Civil War medical conditions that helped shape future military medicine, to include make-shift hospitals, care of the wounded on the battlefield, and the Red Cross. This trip is part of the students' military medical history program, and is designed to reinforce USU's military applied physiology curriculum and explain the trials of battlefield medicine.

Established by Congress in 1972, the Uniformed Services University has the nation's only fully accredited federal school of medicine and graduate school of nursing. It has provided the country with more than 3,000 outstanding military and public health physicians, scientists and health care practitioners. USU specializes in military medicine, which differs greatly from civilian medicine, and involves prevention, diagnosis and treatment by medical personnel who are integral to the military operations they support. Military medicine requires a solid background in tropical medicine and hygiene, parasitology and a full understanding of epidemiological methods and preventive medicine.

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Media interested in covering the road march should contact USU Office of University Affairs no later than 3 p.m. May 2.

